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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Bruno GHYSELEN et al.

Confirmation No.: 2668

Application No.: 10/726,039

Group Art Unit: 2818

Filing Date: December 1, 2003

Examiner: Dung Anh Le

For: RECYCLING OF A WAFER COMPRISING
A BUFFER LAYER AFTER HAVING
SEPARATED A THIN LAYER THEREFROM
BY MECHANICAL MEANS

Attorney Docket No.: 4717-8600

LETTER RE PRIOR ART

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following references were recently brought to the attention of the applicants: PCT application WO 2004/021420 and US patent applications 2003/0227057 A1 and 2004/0005740 A1. The applicants and their attorneys and representatives have reviewed these references and confirm that they are not material to the patentability of the present claims. In addition, the priority date for the applicable disclosure of the two US patent applications is October 4, 2002, i.e., after the priority date of the present application.

Since the Rules of Practice in Patent cases do not provide for the review of non-material references by the Examiner after a Notice of Allowance has been mailed, it is respectfully requested that these references simply be placed in the file of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

1/27/06
Date

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